



# NEWS



**For Immediate Release  
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## **Fernald Preserve Debut**

(Cincinnati)—The public will get its first glimpse of the Fernald Preserve and its Visitors Center during a community meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 20. Stoller Corporation, contractor to the Department of Energy, provided project management services for the construction of the Visitors Center. The facility was designed and constructed in cooperation with Megen Construction Company and the University of Cincinnati's College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning, the 10,000-square-foot Visitors Center has a multipurpose meeting room for the public and an exhibit area that depicts the history of the Fernald site from the time of Native Americans to the arrival of settlers and farmers, to the uranium-processing years, to the site's eventual cleanup and evolution to the nature preserve that exists today.

The Visitors Center was planned and constructed following gold-level certification standards from the U.S. Green Building Council, which sponsors the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system, the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high-performance green buildings.

Visitors Center hours will be Wednesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The 1,050-acre Fernald Preserve was created following the environmental cleanup of the Fernald property, located 18 miles northwest of Cincinnati in Crosby Township. The Fernald property has been cleaned to standards established by site neighbors and the surrounding communities. These cleanup standards were approved by the U.S. and Ohio Environmental Protection Agencies as being protective of human health and the environment.

The Fernald Preserve has been ecologically restored using plants, grasses, and trees native to southwest Ohio. The preserve has 140 acres of wetland habitat, 400 acres of forests, and 300 acres of grassland, including tall grass prairies. The ecological restoration has transformed the Fernald Preserve into a haven for wildlife. Over 170 species of birds—ranging from waterfowl and shorebirds, to wild turkeys and songbirds—have been observed on the site. A variety of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects also inhabit the preserve. A network of trails has been developed to facilitate nature observation.

Fernald Preserve hours will be daily from 7 a.m. to dusk.

Prior to the community meeting a historical marker on Willey Road will be unveiled at 5:30 p.m., commemorating Fernald's role as the first link in America's nuclear weapons production cycle. The historical marker program is administered by the Ohio Historical Society and enables Ohioans to commemorate and celebrate local history.

Local media will be given an advance tour of both the Fernald Preserve and the Visitors Center on August 19, at noon.

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